

WE DESPAIRED EVEN OF LIFE:

2 Cor 1:8-11

2 Cor 1:8 Make sure aware of what happened to us while in Asia. Need to know this, brothers in Christ.

Trouble: affliction, grave hardships, beaten, imprisoned, illness, secret plans

Which came to us in Asia: Paul recently in Asia... Ephesus

...pressed out of measure: Horrific, dreadful, overwhelming

Stedman: *...utterly, unbearably crushed....lowest ebb the human spirit can come to, the uttermost sense of despair.*

Weighed down beyond measure.

Barnes: denotes excess, eminence, or intensity.

...above strength: beyond what natural strength support.

Mac: *He was unbearably crushed to the point of depression by something beyond even his formidable strength to endure.*

... we despaired even of life: concerned that not alive after all said and done.

Despaired: *to be utterly at a loss; utterly destitute of measures or resources, to renounce all hope.* Thayers

2 Cor 1:9 Sentence of death: official and legal judgment, decision, resolution.

... not trust in ourselves: forced to trust God completely, totally. Not ourselves!

...but in God which raiseth the dead: God bring Paul to place where learn not to rely on himself.

By breaking him over and over again...putting him in situations and circumstances he couldn't handle.

Mac: *man's extremity is God's opportunity*

Wiersbe: *But God wants us to trust Him—not our gifts or abilities, our experience, or our "spiritual reserves." Just about the time we feel self-confident and able to meet the enemy, we fail miserably. "For when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Cor. 12:10).*

Stedman: *One of the major reasons God sends us suffering is to break the stubborn spirit of self-will within us that insists on trying to work it all out by our own resources, or run to some other human resource, or in some way refuse to acknowledge that we need divine help. I find this in myself. I*

struggle sometimes. I do not want to pray about a certain matter because, if I pray about it, that is admitting that I cannot handle it myself. Paul must have struggled the same way.

2 Sam 22:33 Psa 147:5

2 Cor 1:10 God did it. He rescued, delivered, drew us out.

and doth deliver And will continue to rescue and deliver us. .

Wiersbe: *When God puts His children into the furnace, He keeps His hand on the thermostat and His eye on the thermometer...*

When God delivers ...not always same as others.

2 Cor 1:11 *Helping together:* with, under, work, Coworkers under same burden, working together to get job done...by prayer.

Paul ask believers to pray for him.

1 Thess. 5:25 ...pray for us.

Rom. 15:30-32 for protection & love offering

Eph. 6:18-19 be effective speaker.

Phil. 1:19 Freedom in ministry or freedom from prison

Col. 4:3 Open doors for preaching Word

2 Thess. 3:1 Great response to preaching...God's Word run rapidly

... gift bestowed upon us: charisma: favor, grace gift. Deliverance from trouble or death...an answer to prayer.

Many will thank God for divine favor He will show us because many people prayed for us.

So WHAT?

Have you had trial so overwhelming you don't think you can make it?

Not do: trust in self

What do: Trust in God

Why? He can raise someone from dead.

Recruit others to pray